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ASSEMBLY PRAYERS

1925

REV. DR. RUDOLPH I. COFFEE

CHAPLAIN



CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE  
FORTY-SIXTH SESSION  
1925

# Prayers

OFFERED AT THE DAILY SESSIONS  
OF THE ASSEMBLY

REV. DR. RUDOLPH I. COFFEE  
Rabbi, Temple Sinai, Oakland, California  
CHAPLAIN



California State Printing Office  
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REV. DR. RUDOLPH I. COFFEE.

## RESOLUTION.

*Adopted in Assembly April 24, 1925.*

WHEREAS, The Reverend Rudolph I. Coffee, Chaplain of the Assembly, during the Forty-sixth Session, has by his prayers each morning brought to this body valuable inspiration, and has reminded the members of their obligations not only to their God, but to their fellowmen, to the State, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, His intellectual attainments and depth of thought have compelled the admiration of all within his hearing and have won the personal regard of all the members; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Assembly hereby expresses appreciation of his services as Chaplain and assures him that the members will forever retain kind remembrances of him; and it is further

*Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly be, and he hereby is authorized and instructed to have printed 500 booklets containing the prayers offered at this session, and that he send one of said booklets to each member of the Assembly and to each desk clerk of the House and the remaining booklets to Reverend Rudolph I. Coffee.

Thanks are due the following friends who offered prayer during the 1925 legislative session.

RUDOLPH I. COFFEE, *Chaplain*.

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RABBI MICHAEL AARONSOHN, Chaplain Disabled Veterans, Cincinnati, Ohio.

ASSEMBLYMAN D. P. ANDERSON, Santa Rosa.

REV. BERKELEY B. BLAKE, Sacramento.

FATHER J. H. ELLIS, Sacramento.

REV. HARLEY H. GILL, Sacramento.

REV. DR. WILLIAM E. HARRISON, Sacramento.

FATHER THOMAS E. HORGAN, Sacramento.

FATHER ROBERT E. LUCEY, Los Angeles.

REV. ROBERT BURNS MCAULAY, Sacramento.

RT. REV. BISHOP WILLIAM H. MORELAND, Sacramento.

RABBI HAROLD F. REINHART, Sacramento.

REV. DAVID C. WILLIAMS, Merced.

ASSEMBLYMAN T. M. WRIGHT, San Jose.





# CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

(Forty-sixth Session)

## PRAYERS

(January sixth.)

**L**ORD AND FATHER, Thy suppliant children draw nigh unto Thee this day, offering a special prayer on behalf of our beloved country. May America ever be the home of justice and the land of righteousness. We pray unto Thee to keep in Thy safe protection the President of these United States, whom our people have set in authority, and also all those officers who are entrusted with the enforcement of our laws. We offer our earnest prayer unto Thee for the Governor of this State and for all those men and women who cooperate with him to safeguard the people of our Golden State. May Thy spirit of wisdom enter into this hall so that Thy servants, who have been chosen by the people to make the laws, will be the better prepared, under Thy Divine guidance, to labor for the best interests of our State. Send Thou into their midst the spirit of

peace and harmony and concord that they may work together as brethren, having in mind one common cause. We pray, O God, unto Thee for the people of this State that peace and prosperity may abide within our borders. O God, Father of us all, do Thou bless us and protect us. Mayst Thou cause Thy countenance to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. Bless us with that peace which is unending, even now and forevermore. Amen.

\* \* \*

(January seventh.)

UNTO THEE, O LORD, belongeth honor and glory. This day Thy suppliant children come before Thee seeking Thy Divine guidance to fulfill the will of the citizens of this glorious and Golden State. May Thy spirit of peace descend into this body, that its deliberations may bless all the citizens of our State. We thank Thee, O God, for that great American citizen who, six years ago, closed his eyes on earth after so splendid a career, lived in carrying

out the finest traditions of this land. May the spirit of Theodore Roosevelt enter into our hearts so that we be imbued with his idealism and those lofty aims which have made America the better because he lived and worked for it. Bless us, O Father, in proportion to our great needs, and strengthen us as only Thou canst aid those who call upon Thee for support and guidance. Thou art our Father and we are Thy humble, grateful children. Bless us now and forevermore. Amen.

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(January eighth.)

RT. REV. BISHOP W. H. MORZLAND.

ETERNAL GOD, we recognize Thee as the source of all power and might. We believe that the "powers that be are ordained of God." Therefore, we come to Thee to ask Thy blessing and guidance for those to whom Thou hast delegated authority in the State of California. We pray for the Governor and Legislature of the State, and especially for the members of this

Assembly, that the members thereof may be enabled to rule in the fear of God and not in fear of men, not as of their own will, but as representing Thee. Grant that this daily prayer may never come to be regarded as a mere formality, but as a recognition of Thy supreme sovereignty; that it may serve each morning to search the hearts, cleanse the conscience and uplift the ideals of the members of this body. Open their minds to Thy spirit that they may not be governed by private, personal or partisan considerations, but enable them to look up into Thy Face with pure hearts and clean hands, day by day, and so be sure of Thy help and sympathy.

We ask in His name who hast revealed Thee to us as a God of sincerity, truth and love—Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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(January ninth.)

REV. R. B. McANULTY.

**O** THOU, who rulest in equity and declarest righteous judgment; send

down upon the Legislature of this State, the spirit of concord, purity, and justice, that all false counsels and evil influences may be absent from the Assembly, and that the servants of the people may be directed in wisdom and integrity, according to Thy laws. So guide and prosper with Thy blessing whatsoever may be devised and enacted, that it may redound to the peace and prosperity, and the honor and welfare of our commonwealth, and to the glory of Thy name. Amen.

\* \* \*

(January twelfth.)

**E**XCEPT THE LORD build the house, they who build it labor in vain. Except Thou, O Lord, build our Nation, the builders also labor in vain. Therefore, at the commencement of another week the members of this Assembly reverently turn their hearts and souls in prayer to Thee, before entering upon their several activities. Mayst Thou, All Heavenly Father, in Thy infinite wisdom, enter into the midst of this

legislative body. Send Thy Spirit and Thy Love into the hearts of each of Thy servants, that all may be the better prepared to work for the strengthening and for the upbuilding of our beloved California. Help Thy sons and daughters this day as they conscientiously enter upon the discharge of their duties. May friendship radiate through every corner of this room; bless all who are here, guide them for the sake of our Nation and our Golden State. Amen.

\* \* \*

(January twelfth.)

*Prayer delivered at the joint session of Legislature when the electoral vote was being cast for Calvin Coolidge and Chas. G. Dawes.*

**A**Lmighty GOD, Thou who are the Sovereign Ruler of us all, we enter Thy presence at this solemn moment, full of awe and reverence. Look down from Thy Throne of Mercy upon Thy children whom the people have elected to temporary authority, and are gathered here for the

purpose of casting California's votes for the President and Vice President of these United States. Bless, O Our Father, the two distinguished Americans whom these votes will help elevate to great authority and power. We ask Thy special Blessing upon our Chief Executive, who will soon be inaugurated for another term as the most powerful official in the whole universe. Keep him, O Father, in the best of health and likewise his associates in power with him, that they may govern wisely and justly for the best interests of our people. May Thy Blessing rest upon the Chief Executive of this State and his dear ones. We invoke Thy Divine protection upon every official of the State, upon all the citizens who reside within its borders, that peace and order may ever obtain in our State. And now, O Father, as these solemn exercises commence bless us with Thy Divine Guidance and Protection, even now and forever. Amen.

(January thirteenth.)

TO THEE, O GOD, our grateful thanks are due as we commence another working day in our lives. Thou art our Merciful Father, who grantest favors without numbers to Thy suppliant children. With earnestness and a plea for Divine guidance, State legislators have gathered today in order to work for the glorious development and the highest interests of California. Cause them, O Heavenly Father, to see Thy Light and to deliberate with the utmost harmony and friendship for the good of our citizens and every soul residing within our borders. Thou, Who art clothed in Majesty, make Thy servants who are here gathered as representatives of our State, the messengers of Justice and Progress, to carry out Thy Divine Will on earth. We open our hearts to receive Thy instruction; we bow our heads the more willingly to show our submission to Thy instruction and our desire for divine education. Bless Thy children according to Thy never fail-



ing Mercy and Thy Infinite Goodness, now and forevermore. Amen.

\* \* \*

(January fourteenth.)

It matters not how straight the gate,  
How charged with punishment the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul.

—HENLEY, "Invictus."

WE THANK THEE, O God, for this message of Good Cheer, which assures us that if we so will, we may conquer fear through Love and develop our noblest selves to their utmost power. Thou hast made man but little lower than the Angels, granting him dominion over the birds of the air, the beasts of the field and the fishes under the sea. Thou hast planted within us the seed to strive for good and we have come here this morning to ask for Thy Divine aid in bringing love to earth and making this universe a worthy abode for Thy children. This day, assist Thou Thy servants, who have entered the Capitol

to the utmost of their fine abilities. Spread Thou the Spirit of fellowship amongst them that their united wisdom and their zealous efforts may greatly redound to the blessed advance of our Golden State. Do Thou in all Thy Glory be a beacon light to direct their efforts this day and forevermore. Amen.

\* \* \*

(January fifteenth.)

REV. BERKELEY B. BLAKE.

OUR FATHER, who art in Heaven, we bless Thy holy name: day by day we pray that Thy kingdom may come, that Thy will may be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Then by our lives we contradict the prayer upon our lips. Here in this Assembly, called together to deliberate upon statutes for the government of Thy people, where definite steps can be taken to bring in the reign of righteousness, for which we long, may the prayer of our

Master be remembered. May we forget the partisan differences and the political rivalries that too often shame us; may we forget the hopes of personal advancement and the narrow self-seeking whereby we delay the coming of the kingdom for which we pray. May we remember that we are not masters, but servants of Thee and of Thy people. Cause us to remember all those whom we serve, not only those in power, but the unfortunate ones as well, who can not help themselves, and the outcasts who need our sympathetic aid. Above all, may we remember the needs of the little children, who, in so few years, shall stand in our places and hold the reins of government. In all our deliberations be Thou with us, our Father. Awaken our consciences, arouse our torpid wills and guide us in all we do. We ask it in the name of Him who, on the cross, gave up his life to shame us from our selfish ways. Amen.

(January sixteenth.)

RABBI HAROLD F. REINHART.

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN. As we assemble here this morning, we pray that our hearts may be purified in devotion to Thy holy will; that our minds may be enlightened in reaching for Thy truth; and that in all our undertakings, we may be strong to perform the right as we see the right. May Thy gracious spirit guide us now and always. Amen.

\* \* \*

(January nineteenth.)

Who is the Happy Warrior? Who is he  
 That every man in arms should wish to be?  
 Whose high endeavors are an inward light  
 That makes the path before him always bright?  
 —'Tis he whose law is reason; who depends  
 Upon that law as on the best of friends;  
 Whence, in a state where men are tempted still  
 To evil for a guard against worse ill,  
 And what in quality or act is best  
 Doth seldom on a right foundation rest.  
 He labours good on good to fix, and owes  
 To virtue every triumph that he knows.  
 —Who, if he rise to station of command,  
 Rises by open means; and there will stand  
 On honorable terms, or else retire,  
 And in himself possess his own desire.  
 Who comprehends his trust, and to the same

Keeps faithful with a singleness of aim;  
 'Tis, finally, the Man, who lifted high,  
 Conspicuous object in a Nation's eye,  
 Whom neither shape of danger can dismay,  
 Nor thought of tender happiness betray;  
 Who, not content that former worth stand fast,  
 Looks forward, persevering to the last,  
 From well to better, daily self-surpass.  
 Who, whether praise of him must walk the earth  
 Forever, and to noble deeds give birth,  
 Or he must fall, to sleep without his fame,  
 And leave a dead, unprofitable name—  
 Finds comfort in himself and in his cause;  
 And, while the mortal mist is gathering, draws  
 His breath in confidence of Heaven's applause.  
 This is the Happy Warrior; this is he  
 That every man in peace should wish to be.

—WORDSWORTH, "The Happy Warrior."

**A**Lmighty GOD, as we commence another week in our lives, may these high ideals of the gifted poet lift our souls to a finer performance of duty. May Thy sons and daughters, who have come here to serve, be strengthened by these utterances the better to help our State and our people. Amen.

\* \* \*

(January twentieth.)

Gentlemen, the spirit of human liberty and of free government, nurtured and grown into strength

and beauty in America, has stretched its course into the midst of the nations. Like an emanation from Heaven, it has gone forth and it will not return void. It must change, it is fast changing, the face of the earth. Our great, our high duty, is to show, in our own example, that this spirit is a spirit of health as well as a spirit of power; that its benignity is as great as its strength; that its efficiency to secure individual rights, social relations, and moral order, is equal to the irresistible force with which it prostrates principalities and powers. The world, at this moment, is regarding us with a willing, but something of a fearful admiration. Its deep and awful anxiety is to learn, whether free states may be stable as well as free; whether popular power may be trusted as well as feared; in short, whether wise, regular and virtuous self-government is a vision, for the contemplation of theorists, or a truth, established, illustrated and brought into practice, in the country of Washington.

Gentlemen, for the earth which we inhabit, and the whole circle of the sun, for all the unborn races of mankind, we seem to hold in our hands, for their weal and woe, the fate of this experiment. If we fail, who shall venture the repetition?

—DANIEL WEBSTER, Oration on  
George Washington.

**A**LMIGHTY FATHER, as we celebrate this week the birthday of that gifted American statesman, Daniel Webster, we pray for the power to advance the great ideals which he pictured, and breathe

into life the wonderful vision which he painted. This day do Thou enter into the deliberations of this Assembly, and help its members to further Thy kingdom by wise legislation for the glory of our State. Amen.

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(January twenty-first.)

**M**AYEST THOU, Almighty God, bless these chosen representatives of the people, and preserve them.

Mayest Thou cause Thy face to shine upon them in the discharge of their duties and be gracious unto them throughout this day.

Do Thou lift Thy countenance upon them and grant them the peace which passeth all human understanding. May they walk in the light of Thy countenance and be blessed of Thee forever. Amen.

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(January twenty-second.)

FATHER J. H. ELLIS.

**W**E PRAY THEE, O God of might, wisdom and justice, through whom

authority is rightly administered, and laws are enacted, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the Speaker and members of this Assembly, that their actions may be conducted rightly, and be eminently useful to Thy people by encouraging due respect for law and order, by a faithful enactment of laws in accordance with justice and mercy.

Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of this Assembly, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge, and may perpetuate to us the blessings of equal liberty.

We recommend to Thee likewise all our fellow-citizens throughout the State, that they may be blessed in the knowledge of, and sanctified in the observance of Thy laws, that they may be preserved in union



and peace, and after enjoying the blessings of this life, may be admitted to those which are eternal. Amen.

\* \* \*

(January twenty-third.)

REV. R. B. McANULAY.

**M**OST GRACIOUS GOD, we humbly beseech Thee, as for the people of the State in general, so especially for this body of representatives, here assembled: That Thou wouldst be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations, to the advancement of Thy glory and the good of the State as expressed in the safety, honor and welfare of the people: that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavors, upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, virtue and piety, may be established among us. These and all other necessities we ask for the glory of Thy name. Amen.

(January twenty-fourth.)

ASSEMBLYMAN D. P. ANDERSON.

**O** THOU great spirit of light, life and love, Thou art God! Infinite, eternal and unchangeable in Thy being, wisdom and power, holiness, justice and truth. Thou art the dwelling place of light and the spirit of life, for in Thee we live, move and have our being.

With humility and reverence would we approach Thy throne, for we are impressed with Thy majesty and power. When we survey the heavens, "the work of Thy hands, the sun and moon which Thou hast ordained," we exclaim with the Psalmist, "what is man, that Thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that Thou visiteth him. Yet Thou hast made him but little lower than the angels and crowned him with majesty and glory." Help us to live worthily of the high calling which it is our honor and privilege to enjoy. We would recognize Thy power also as the great law giver, manifesting Thyself in laws, divine in their origin, beneficent in their purpose.

universal in their jurisdiction, written in the very constitution of the universe; from whose operation there is no escape; from whose judgment there is no appeal. May we have wisdom to recognize that "the law of the Lord is perfect."

By the sovereign will of the people of this great commonwealth, the power of legislation has been delegated to us. Grant us wisdom to realize that no law we may enact will be effective if contrary to Thy will as expressed in law. May justice be tempered with judgment and honor in all our deliberations. Direct, suggest, control, this day, all we desire to do, or say. May all our work be done in the spirit of harmony and helpfulness. To Thee we will ascribe the honor for the good we accomplish. Amen.



(February twenty-fourth.)

REV. HERBESLEY B. BLAKE.

**L**ORD OF ALL, who abideth even unto eternity, in whose presence we live and

move and have our being, we ask Thy blessing upon the labors that await us through the days to come. Teach us, we pray Thee, that Thy blessing must be earned; that no one, even though he be consecrated to Thy service, can call down the sacred fire from Heaven to lead us; that it is only where, in humble longing, the hearts of men turn to Thee for strength and guidance, and only when their labors are devoted to the welfare of their fellowmen, that Thy holy fires are kindled and Thy priceless benediction, "Well done!" is bestowed. May this spirit of prayer, not for gifts, but for guidance, and this spirit of labor, not for personal advantage, but for unselfish service, animate us that Thy blessing may rest upon us. Then shall our wills own Thy sway, our daily lives be praises unto Thee, and our minds be opened to know Thee as Thou art—the infinite Lord of all, yet Father of all, who loveth us even in our sins, and who, although we seek to turn from Thee, still walketh with us all our days. Amen.

(February twenty-fifth.)

Once to every man and nation comes the moment  
to decide.  
In the strife of truth with falsehood, for the good  
or evil side;  
Some great cause, God's new Messiah, offering  
each the bloom or blight,  
Parts the goats upon the left hand, and the sheep  
upon the right,  
And the choice goes by forever 'twixt that dark-  
ness and that light.

Careless seems the great Avenger; history's pages  
but record  
One death-grapple in the darkness 'twixt old  
systems and the word;  
Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on  
the throne,  
Yet that scaffold sways the future, and, behind the  
dim unknown  
Standeth God within the shadow, keeping watch  
above His own.

New occasions teach new duties; time makes  
ancient good uncouth;  
They must upward still, and onward, who would  
keep abreast of truth.

—LOWELL, "The Present Crisis."

**A**Lmighty FATHER, as we begin  
another day's work, we seek Thy  
divine guidance and counsel. Help us to  
be true to the deeper ideals of our con-  
science and aid us in our high resolves to

work for the betterment of our beloved State. Grant us the power to understand Thee and in Thy spirit to labor for the finer and more glorious day. We ask this for Thy great name. Amen.



(February twenty-sixth.)

All are architects of Fate,  
Working in these walls of Time;  
Some with massive deeds and great,  
Some with ornaments of rhyme.

For the structure that we raise,  
Time is with materials filled;  
Our todays and yesterdays  
Are the blocks with which we build.

Build today then strong and sure,  
With a firm and ample base,  
And ascending and secure  
Shall tomorrow find its place.

—HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW,  
"The Builders."

**L**ORD AND FATHER, we thank Thee for this message of the immortal Longfellow, whose birthday we remember this week. February, briefest among the months, was yet long enough to include

such glorious sons as Washington, who contributed so mightily to the founding of our nation, and Lincoln who prevented its disruption. May we, as modern architects of fate, continue their work, and aid in building the America of tomorrow, where freedom may flower most superbly for the children of men. We pray at this hour for Thy divine guidance in helping to build the better world. Amen.



(February twenty-seventh.)

REV. DAVID C. WILLIAMS.

Of better and brighter days to come  
Man is talking and dreaming ever;  
To gain a happy and golden home,  
His efforts he ceases never;  
The world decays and again revives;  
But man for improvement ever strives.

**A**Lmighty GOD, our Father in Heaven, we are unable within ourselves to think of Thee. Thou art a part of every thought, for Thou art not far from every one of us. Whatever our need, Thou art the source of supply, in Thee only we

find recourse. When we, like children, go astray, we find real refuge in Thee as a Father. To Thee we come now as men and women, each with responsibility of the world's work, and among others of our fellowmen. For a short allotted time of labor, we are trustees, each of us knows our important task, though they may be of several different kinds. May we realize Thy will be done through us; some way, somehow, sometime. Give us, therefore, a vision that will teach us the meaning of service, enlarge and enrich our thoughts about Thee, and the meaning of life in the light of Eternity, that we may fully understand that we are a part of thine infinite plan for the best that we can perform. May we learn to trace Thy purpose in everything that we can understand about possibilities of edifying one another's lives through Him who discovered the Heavenly Father as Eternal Worker. Amen.



(March second.)

A picket frozen on duty,  
 A mother starved for her brood,  
 Socrates drinking the hemlock,  
 And Jesus on the rood;  
 And millions, who, humble and nameless,  
 The straight, hard pathway plod,  
 Some call it Consecration,  
 And others call it God.

—WILLIAM HERBERT CARRUTH, "  
 "Each in His Own Tongue."

SEEKING consecration for the day's work, our Heavenly Father, the members of the State Assembly bow their heads and ask Thy divine help. May they labor not for the passing moment alone, but to build a nobler and grander commonwealth tomorrow. Be with their every effort and grant them strength in proportion to their needs. Amen.

\* \* \*

(March third.)

Then welcome each rebuff  
 That turns earth's smoothness rough,  
 Each sting that bids nor sit nor stand but go.

Be our joys three parts pain,  
 Strive, and hold cheap the stram;  
 Learn, nor account the pang; dare, never grudge  
 the throw.  
 For thence, a paradox, which comforts while it  
 mocks,  
 Shall life succeed in that it seems to fail.

—BROWNING'S "Rabbi Ben Ezra."

OUR HEAVENLY GOD, Thy servants,  
 chosen by the citizens of this State to  
 legislate for the welfare of California, enter  
 Thy presence this morning, not seeking  
 their personal comforts nor a life of ease.  
 They ask for inner light to do their full  
 duty. They call upon Thee to direct their  
 thoughts and guide their every act this day.  
 Grant them fullness of blessing in perform-  
 ing their several tasks. Amen.

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(March fourth.)

Day Calvin Coolidge took the oath of office as President  
 of the United States.

### WASHINGTON'S PRAYER.

(Preceding his inauguration as President.)

Almighty God: We make our earnest prayer  
 that thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy  
 protection; that thou wilt incline the hearts of the

citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally, that thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the divine author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech thee, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

#### LINCOLN'S SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

(Concluding paragraph. Recited exactly sixty years ago this day.)

With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

**A**LMAIGHTY FATHER, we invoke Thy divine blessing this day upon Calvin Coolidge, who has just been inaugurated as President of these, our beloved United States. Mayest Thou strengthen him through Thy infinite mercy to continue

the work of our illustrious Washington and Lincoln. May he, and all who are placed in positions of authority, govern wisely for the betterment of our nation. Be with the President and his counsellors, with the Governor of this State, with all the members of this Assembly and with everyone who strives to further the ideals of our beloved America. Be with us now and forevermore. Amen.

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(March 5th.)

REV. DAVID C. WILLIAMS.

Men my brothers, men the workers,  
Ever seeking something new;  
That which they have done but earnest  
Of the things which they will do.

THOU CREATOR of mankind, Thou Ruler of human destinies, awaken in us wanderers a vast and hungry homesickness for Thy fellowship in all our endeavors to perpetuate Righteousness and Peace, Harmony and Love, Brotherhood and

Service. We pray Thee never to permit us to rest in delicious error, in pleasant sin, in popular falsehood; only in active service in usefulness to our fellow-creatures, Thy loved Children. When we feel so secure in false position, send Thy punishment to make us uneasy. When satisfied with achievements, reveal to us the danger of losing our ideals of perfection. When the way is stopped by mountains of problems, make our faith strong to remove them. When the last task is ended, when the last session is closed, when time shall be no more, when our feet touch the last flood, may it shrink in volume and the brighter shore be found near, and the banks of everlasting green covered with loved ones ready to extend a joyous welcome, and we hear the precious words of Well Done.

Thine shall be the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory, world without end. These petitions we ask in the name of the Christ. Amen.

(March sixth.)

REV. R. B. McADRAY.

OUR FATHER in Heaven, we turn to Thee again this morning, beseeching the leading of Thy spirit throughout this day's deliberations and actions. We seek the wisdom that is from above, that is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits. Guide this Assembly, we pray Thee, that it may enact those measures that shall promote peace and prosperity in our State and the spirit of good will among the people both now and for all time. Amen.

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(March seventh.)

REV. BERKELEY B. BLAKE.

LORD OF ALL, Eternal Law-Giver, who dost rule alike the fiery nebulae of the most distant heavens and the tiniest atom of our little earth, Thou whose voice was heard before the dawn of creation and whose spirit shall still abide when all created things shall have passed away, help

us to open our hearts to Thine influence that we may be led to walk in Thy ways all our days. We are prone to forget that Thy ways are not only to be found in the paths of glory and of power and of fame, but that they are to be found even more in the paths of humility and of obscure service; that the way of life eternal is the way of sacrifice and self-forgetfulness. Help us to keep before us as a light to lead us on, the high ideals of manhood that were in Jesus and that have been in all the prophets and martyrs of the race who have labored and died that Thy Kingdom might reign in the hearts of men and be reflected in nobler lives and diviner service. We ask it in the name of Him who is still "the light, life, way the holiest know." Amen.

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March ninth.)

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, once again do the members of the State Assembly enter this Hall to legislate for the welfare of California. Before they enter

upon the week's activities, they pause in reverence and think of that great Californian whose birthday we commemorate this day. We thank thee, O God, for Leland Stanford, that patriotic war Governor of California, whose determined and persistent zeal did so much to hold California in the Union; whose glorious vision and fine steadfastness overcame every obstacle so that a transcontinental railroad was built, which has aided so materially in the rapid development of our Golden State. We remember today that twice the State Legislature elected him as United States Senator at Washington, where he labored for the best interests of the people of California. We also recall at this hour the bravery and courage of his struggling soul. In the Indian summer of his career, when his only and lamented son passed on, Leland Stanford, with his courageous wife, swept aside the tears of grief and busied himself with that lasting monument, the Leland Stanford Junior University, which is such an honor to our peo-



ple and a credit to our nation. California, our Father, is proud of her illustrious son, and we pray, on his birthday, that the citizens may continue in the spirit of this fine and distinguished pioneer.

Be with us, O God, even now and forevermore. Amen.

~ ~ ~

(March tenth.)

Four things a man must learn to do  
If he would make his record true;  
To think without confusion clearly;  
To love his fellow men sincerely;  
To act from honest motives purely;  
To trust in God and Heaven securely.

—HENRY VAN DYKE, "Four Things."

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, we trust in Thee and in Thy Goodness. Thy sons and daughters, in the consecration of their best efforts to legislate for the welfare of California, seek Thy Divine guidance and protection. Look down from Thy Heavenly throne upon their zealous efforts to develop the great resources of our wonderful State. Grant them wisdom and power to do their duty as they strive to fol-

low Thy divine will. Be with them this day and grant them Thy Fatherly aid, even now and forevermore. Amen.



(March eleventh.)

REV. ROBERT E. LUCKY.

**O**UR FATHER, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those that trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.



(March twelfth.)

RABBI HAROLD F. REINHART.

**O** SPIRIT of growing Righteousness: It is fitting that we raise our voices to Thee in gratitude for all goods that we enjoy. But, most of all, we acknowledge our appreciation of the capacity of moral development with which Thou hast endowed us. Man alone of all Thy creatures

can be the conscious pursuer of the golden gleam of a good ideal. Our institutions—even this legislative organization—can serve their true human purpose, only by helping individuals and society, to rise to higher levels of goodness. Our prayer is that we may be faithful to our best potentialities, that we may be constant in the cultivation of that moral growth, which is the distinction and the glory of the sons of man. Amen.

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(March thirteenth.)

REV. T. F. HORGAN,

O ALMIGHTY and eternal God, in whose presence we ever stand, in whose hands are the lives of men, and in whose power is the destiny of nations, we humbly acknowledge Thee to be the Lord and we confess our utter dependence upon Thee. Ere we begin the labors of this day, we pause to seek Thy guidance and to implore Thy help. Without Thee, we can do nothing, and we would do naught that is contrary to Thy holy will. Open our

minds that we may see and incline our wills, that we may follow the path of duty traced out in Thy holy law; so that all our labors and deliberations may redound to Thy honor and glory, and the welfare of our fellowmen. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.



(March fourteenth.)

REV. HARLEY H. GILL.

OUR FATHER. Thou art our Father, and we, Thy children, are partaking continually of Thy bountiful provision. There are times, our Father, when we are careless and indifferent about it and we accept Thy blessings as a matter of course. Forgive us, we pray Thee, and teach us to be ever mindful of Thy presence with us, and our dependence upon Thee.

We are grateful for this land in which we live, for California with its rich fruitage and the ease and comfort of living which it brings to us. May we realize that these gifts place upon us a responsibility to the

nation, to the world, and to those who come after us.

Grant that everything of narrowness, and prejudice, and selfishness and partisanism shall be removed far from us, and that as servants of Thine and the people whom we represent, we shall pour out the last full measure of our devotion, our energy, our service.

All of this we ask in the spirit of Him who so well showed us how to love one another. Amen.

~ ~ ~

(March sixteenth.)

There are hermit souls that live withdrawn  
In the place of their self-content;  
There are souls like stars, that dwell apart,  
In a fellowless firmament;  
There are pioneer souls that blaze their paths  
Where highways never ran;  
But let me live by the side of the road  
And be a friend to man.

Let me live in my house by the side of the road,  
It's here the race of men go by;  
They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they  
are strong,  
Wise, foolish—so am I.

Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat,  
 Or hurl the cynic's ban?  
 Let me live in my house by the side of the road  
 And be a friend to man.

—SAM WALTER FOSS,  
 "The House by the Side of the Road."

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER: As these men and women, chosen to represent our great State, assemble for another week's work, they turn their hearts in reverence toward Thee. Help them, O God, to be friends to humanity. Aid their efforts to labor in this great and wonderful State for the best interest of the citizens. Grant of Thy wisdom and Thy power, and help them, one and all, to walk in accordance with Thy will. We ask this for Thy great name's sake. Amen.



(March seventeenth.)

REV. R. B. McAULAY.

OUR FATHER, Who art in Heaven, we turn to Thee again this morning as we begin the day, seeking Thy guidance. Enable the members of this Assembly, as

they deal with the important affairs that affect the future of our state, to lay foundations on solid rock and not on unstable sand. May heart and mind be so in tune with love of God and love of men that Thy Kingdom may come and Thy will be done. Amen.

\* \* \*

(March eighteenth.)

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,  
As the swift seasons roll.  
Leave thy low-vaulted past,  
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,  
Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast,  
Till thou at length art free,  
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting  
sea!

—OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES,  
"The Chambered Nautilus."

**I**NCLINE THINE EAR, All Heavenly Father, and hear the petitions of Thy children, who strive to build a more stately commonwealth, a better temple for Thy habitation. Mayest Thou guide Thy servants in all their deliberations this day, and so direct their activities as to agree with the eternal fitness of things. Create a fine

spirit of tolerance within these walls, so that all working for the best interests of California may respect the viewpoint of those who honestly differ. Be Thou with us all, now and forever. Amen.

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(March nineteenth.)

Thine are these orbs of light and shade;  
Thou madest Life in man and brute;  
Thou madest Death; and lo, thy foot  
Is on the skull which thou hast made.

Thou wilt not leave us in the dust;  
Thou madest man, he knows not why,  
He thinks he was not made to die;  
And thou hast made him; thou art just.

—TENNYSON, "In Memoriam."

**O** LORD AND FATHER, the American people are standing this morning in the shadow of a great grief. They extend their sorrowing hearts and helping hands to their brethren in our sister state, Illinois, who are truly walking in the very Valley of the Shadow of Death. When we, fortunate sons and daughters of blessed California, think of the misery and distress in Illinois, caused by the uncontrolled



powers of Nature, and then behold the beautiful blossoms and the fragrant flowers which greet our eyes this balmy spring morning, in California, we pray that we may be truly and genuinely appreciative of the blessed bounties Thou dost bestow upon us. Help us, O God, to return in full measure our lasting and abiding gratitude to Thee. Especially may Thy sons and daughters in this Assembly Chamber rise this day to the finest performance of duty. May they labor in harmony for the welfare of our State, and strive to develop the resources of our bountiful commonwealth. Be with these men and women now and forever. Amen.



(March twentieth.)

REV. WM. R. HARRISON.

O GOD, OUR FATHER, unto whom the hearts of men have always turned instinctively in every contingency for inspiration, and for guidance, so may the hearts of Thy servants here turn to Thee

as they begin the work of another Legislative day.

To Thee the myriads of earth lift their hearts daily in adoration and praise and so we come this morning with our tribute of praise and gratitude for the multitude of Thy tender mercies, grateful that we are citizens of California, and of America, incomparably greater than any other republic upon the face of the earth. We praise Thee with fervency for all the great men, who, under Thy providence, conceived and maintained our government through all its history to the present time.

God be with the people of California evermore; guide us as a State, keep us strong, and wise and true, an example to the other nations of the world.

Replenish Thy servants, the members of this Assembly, with Thy Heavenly grace, that they may be able to perform all the labors of this day to meet all its trials and to advance through all it holds in store for them, with cheerful courage and a constant mind.

Keep them in the strong confidence of  
Thy eternal love, we ask in Jesus' name,  
Amen.



(March twenty-third.)

Our little systems have their day;  
They have their day and cease to be;  
They are but broken lights of thee,  
And Thou, O Lord, art more than they.

We have but faith; we can not know;  
For knowledge is of things we see;  
And yet we trust it comes from thee,  
A beam in darkness; let it grow.

Let knowledge grow from more to more,  
But more of reverence in us dwell;  
That mind and soul, according well,  
May make one music as before.

—TENNYSON, "In Memoriam."

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, on this bright morning which commences the happy spring season, we pray to Thee for knowledge and for light. This is the birthday of the blessed University of California, and we offer a special prayer for our beloved school of learning. We petition Thee to guide its destinies for years to come, that it continue to train men and

women for greater service to our state and nation. Be with these legislators today as they enter this hall to make laws for the good of California. May their acts be in accordance with Thy higher knowledge, and do Thou bestow upon them the ability to labor for the greater California that is to be. May Thy blessing abide with them one and all. Amen.

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(March twenty-fourth.)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want;  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;  
He leadeth me beside the still waters;  
He restoreth my soul;  
He guideth me in straight paths for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil,  
For Thou art with me;  
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;  
Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over,  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Psalm Twenty-three.

**A**LL GRACIOUS and Heavenly Father, we turn our thoughts to Thee this morning, asking that Thou wilt be our Shepherd, to lead us in all our ways and direct us in all activities. Be Thou with the members of this Assembly, and let them feel Thy divine guidance and support. May all their deliberations be with the single purpose of benefiting our beloved California. We ask for Thy great name's sake. Amen.

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(March twenty-fifth.)

RT. REV. BISHOP W. H. MORELAND.

**H**EAVENLY FATHER, we lift our eyes and hearts to Thee at the beginning of each day's session. Graciously bless this Assembly. Help them to remember that inspired word—"the powers that be are ordained of God." Let this anointing from above remind them that they are engaged in a sacred task, that they are servants of the King of Kings, ministers of justice, friends of the poor, crusaders of

eternal righteousness. As they commune with each other, may they commune with Thee, feeling Thy Presence burning in them, purging them from selfish motives, until all things good and lovely and noble may seem fair in their eyes, and all things small and unworthy fade from their minds.

Grant that no legislation may be enacted that will make the way of the righteous harder or the way of the sinner easier.

We ask Thy guidance for them, the fresh assurance each morning of Thy Presence in the day's work. So may this present session be high in motive and quality of achievement, and the legislators be rewarded by consciousness of labor sincerely done for Thee and the State: in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

\* \* \*

(March twenty-sixth.)

\* \* \* I charge thee, fling away ambition;  
By that sin fell the angels; how can man then,  
The image of his Maker, hope to win by it?  
Love thyself last; cherish those hearts that hate  
thee;  
Corruption wins not more than honesty.

Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,  
 To silence envious tongues, be just, and fear not;  
 Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's,  
 Thy God's and truth's; then if thou fall'st,  
 O Cromwell,

Thou fall'st a blessed martyr!  
 Had I but served my God with half the zeal  
 I served my king, He would not in mine age  
 Have left me naked to mine enemies.

SHAKESPEARE, "Henry VIII."

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, on this balmy spring morning, the members of the Assembly gather again to legislate for the welfare of California. Help them to serve Thee by laboring for the development of their wonderful State. In their unselfish devotion to California, direct their thoughts and aid their search for the truth. Be with each member of this House, and lead all in Thy light. Amen.

\* \* \*

(March twenty-seventh.)

Father, I will not ask for wealth or fame,  
 I shudder not to bear a hated name,  
 But give me, Lord, eyes to behold the truth,  
 A heart with pity filled, and gentlest ruth;  
 A seeing sense that knows the eternal right,  
 A manly faith that makes all darkness light.

Give me the power to labor for mankind,  
Eyes let me be to groping men and blind,  
Make me the mouth of such as can not speak,  
And lead still further on such as Thy kingdom seek.

—THEODORE PARKER, "The Higher Road."

O GRACIOUS and merciful God, Thy servants seek the inner light of conscience this day, and look to Thee for consecration in the performance of their duties. Unto them may there be permitted the holy and precious privilege of furthering the highest interests of our wonderful State. May Thy servants be loyal and steadfast to their inner convictions, yet considerate in dealing with those who honestly differ from them. Bless their labors this day, and grant them good health in the performance of their difficult tasks. Amen.

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(March thirtieth)

They do me wrong who say I come no more  
When once I knock and fail to find you in;  
For every day I stand outside your door  
And bid you wake, and rise to fight and win.

Wail not for precious chances passed away!  
Weep not for golden ages on the wane!



Each night I burn the records of the day—  
At sunrise every soul is born again!

—WALTER MALONE, "Opportunity."

OUR HEAVENLY and merciful Father, we thank Thee for the blessed opportunities which this new day brings into our lives. Thou art ever renewing our opportunities for service and we pray that we may arise this day to the finest possibilities of our souls. Aid these members to serve our blessed State and place within the souls of these men and women, gathered here to legislate for California, the deeper vision which Thou alone canst grant us. Be with Thy sons and daughters now and forever. Amen.



(March thirty-first.)

The year's at the spring.  
And day's at the morn:  
Morning's at seven;  
The hillside's dew pearled;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn;  
God's in His heaven;  
All's right with the world!

—ROBERT BROWNING, "Pippa Passes."

OUR GRACIOUS and Heavenly Lord, we thank Thee for these inspiring words which stimulate us today to the highest performance of our duties. We know that Thou art in Thy heaven above, and shall not misunderstand the cares and trials and the defeats which come to us this day. We realize that they are but part of the ordinary process of our education; that Thou art training and schooling us, through joys and pain, through happiness and through bitter visitation. Therefore, we pray that Thou wilt help us rise to the noblest possibilities today, and labor with unstinted zeal for the glorious development of our blessed State. Be Thou with each legislator, guide each and every thought as the members plan the day's work. May the beauty of "The Lord, our God, be upon us, and the work of our hands do Thou firmly establish upon us." Amen.

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(April first.)

RABBI MICHAEL AARONSEHN.

Lord, who shall abide in Thy tabernacle, who shall dwell in Thy holy hill? He that walketh

uprightly and worketh righteousness and speaketh the truth in his heart; he that slandereth not with his tongue nor designeth evil to his neighbor. In his eyes the despicable is despised, but he honoreth those who fear the Lord. He that putteth not out his hands to usury or taketh a bribe against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

—Psalm Fifteen.

THOU WHO art the source of all Power, of all Substance and of all Truth, grant that these Thy chosen Legislators may be given the power and the will and the courage to fulfill Thy purposes in Justice and in Righteousness. Amen.

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(April second.)

RABBI H. F. REINHART.

OUR FATHER Who art in Heaven: We acknowledge before Thee that our lives are lived in the light of Thy presence. We know that whereas man may look at the outward appearance, Thou lookest on the heart.

Now we pray before Thee, that whenever sordid aims and selfish desires lure us, we

may behold Thy stern finger pointed at us in solemn warning; that whenever the tangle of life's ways perplex and weary us, we may feel the gentle pressure of Thy guiding hand; and that, whenever with honor and earnest endeavor, we follow Thy ways of truth, the light of Thy radiant love may caress our spirits in satisfying benediction. Amen.

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(April third.)

REV. R. B. McAULAY.

OUR FATHER, Who art in Heaven, we turn our minds unto Thee as we begin this day's work. Forgive us for our shortcomings. Give us of Thy Spirit and in the stress of thought, the call of duty, and the toil of life, do Thou be with us. May it be that the work of this body of men and women today reflect more and more of Thy will and thus promote the ultimate and lasting good of our realm. Truly, we pray Thee, that Thy kingdom

come and Thy will be done in all the affairs of the State. Amen.

(April sixth.)

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow,  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders' fields.

—LIEUT. COL. JOHN McCRAE,  
"In Flanders Fields."

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, eight years ago today America entered into the great world war. Our earnest purpose was to participate in the war to end all further warfare.

This morning Thy servants enter this hall with the avowed purpose of taking up the unfinished work and continuing the quarrel with every foe of peace and law and righteousness. May they serve and hold on high, the great ideal which animated our soldier boys at home and abroad. Our war is against sin and disease and poverty and every preventable ill which dwells in our midst. May the work of these legislators today hasten the era of Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men; may they speed the coming of that glorious epoch mentioned by the poet.

For I dipt into the future, far as human eye could  
see,  
Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonders  
that would be;  
Saw the heavens filled with commerce, argosies of  
magic sails,  
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with  
costly bales;  
Heard the heavens fill with shouting, and there  
rained a ghastly dew  
From the nations' airy navies grappling in the  
central blue;  
Far along the world-wide whisper of the south  
wind rushing warm,  
With the standards of the peoples plunging  
through the thunder storm;

Till the war drum throbbed no longer, and the  
battle flags were furled  
In the Parliament of Man, the Federation of the  
world.  
There the common sense of most shall hold a  
fretful realm in awe.  
And the kindly earth shall slumber, lapt in uni-  
versal law.  
So I triumphed ere my passion sweeping through  
me left me dry,  
Left me with the palsied heart, and left me with  
the jaundiced eye;  
Eyes, to which all order festers, all things here  
are out of joint;  
Science moves, but slowly, slowly, creeping on  
from point to point;  
Slowly comes a hungry people, as a lion creeping  
nigher,  
Glares at one that nods and winks behind a slowly  
dying fire.  
Yet I doubt not through the ages one increasing  
purpose runs,  
And the thoughts of men are widened with the  
process of the suns.

—TENNYSON, "Locksley Hall."



(April seventh.)

Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!  
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!  
Humanity with all its fears,  
With all the hopes of future years,  
Is hanging breathless on thy fate!

Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!  
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,

Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,  
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,  
Are all with thee, are all with thee!

—LONGFELLOW, "The Building of the Ship."

**L**ORD AND SOVEREIGN. "Who exerciseth my hands for battle and my fingers for war," we pray unto Thee for the splendid American navy. We think this morning of thousands of valiant lads who are the guests of our glorious State. For them, we invoke Thy divine protection, and beseech Thy guidance and aid. May the American navy ever stand for the highest ideals of peace. May each ship in the navy spread these newer ideals of peace, which would destroy not mankind, but devastating foes of Nature. May Thy blessing abide with these legislators who today are striving to the best of their knowledge to develop the resources and spread happiness among the inhabitants of our State. We ask Thy blessing upon us all, even now and forevermore. Amen.



(April eighth.)

In men whom men pronounce as ill,  
I find so much of goodness still;  
In men whom men pronounce divine,  
I find so much of sin and blot,  
I hesitate to draw the line  
Between the two, when God has not.

JOAQUIN MILLER.

OUR GRACIOUS LORD, we thank Thee for this inspiring thought of California's distinguished poet. May we this day be more charitable in our judgments, more tolerant toward our fellowmen and more kindly disposed toward those who disagree in matters of legislation. Let us ever remember that greater than any one individual officer, is the welfare of our wonderful State. We pray for harmony within this legislative hall, and for peace in the lives of these men and women who have left home and business to work for the development of our State. Mayest Thou enter into our midst, O God, now and forever. Amen.

(April ninth.)

RABBI HAROLD F. REINHART.

AS WE GATHER here on this shining spring morning, we turn our hearts to Thee, who are the Spirit of life and liberty. All about us, we behold the glorious sunshine calling the earth to brightness and fragrance. It is now our prayer that our hearts may be opened to the sunshine of Thy presence, that we may experience that urge of conscious growth, which is the privilege of man; and that we may feel the reality of human freedom, the power to seek and to establish the cherished pattern of ideals. O living Spirit, hearten us in our good impulses; strengthen us in our good undertakings. Amen.

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(April tenth, Good Friday.)

REV. BERKELEY B. BLAKE.

OUR FATHER, who art in Heaven, may the hallowed memories of this day give us a new birth of love and devotion. Help us to learn to pray the prayer

that Jesus prayed. "Not my will, but Thine be done": and to live that prayer as he lived it. When sorrow lays its sad hand upon our lives, when defeat and disappointment make their bed with us, when the burdens of life seem heavier than flesh and blood can bear, then may we go aside for a little while, alone with Thee beneath the eternal stars and pray His prayer. When temptation to choose the wrong against the right beckons us with her glittering hand, may we recall not only his prayer but the life he lived. And when fortune favors us, and the sun of life shines with its full power upon us, resurrecting love and gladness from the gloom of our disappointments, may we still remember that it is Thy will we must seek to do, that our lives must still be lived as Thou wouldst have us live them. Amen.



(April thirteenth.)

We hold these truths self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

HEAVENLY FATHER, on this anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, we recall that deathless Declaration of Independence which his brain conceived, and we pray for a goodly portion of his spirit. May the ideals of his life inspire Thy sons and daughters, elected to make the laws for our cherished State, and aid them in the performance of duty. Lighten their heavy responsibilities this week by the consciousness of service well rendered, and a citizenship greatly strengthened. Help them all to feel

I live for those who love me,  
For those who know me true,  
For the Heaven that smiles above me,  
And awaits my spirit too;  
For the cause that lacks assistance,  
For the wrong that needs resistance,  
For the future in the distance,  
And the good that I can do.

—MRS. GEORGE LINNÆUS RANKS,  
"What I Live For."

Amen.

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(April fourteenth.)

(Sixty years ago this day Abraham Lincoln was mortally wounded in Forbes' Theater, Washington, passing away the next morning.)

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,  
The ship has weathered every rack, the prize we  
sought is won,  
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all  
exulting,  
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim  
and daring;

But O heart! heart! heart!

O the bleeding drops of red,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the  
bells:

Rise up—for you the flag is flung—for you the  
bugle trills,

For you bouquets and ribboned wreaths—for you  
the shore's a-crowding.

For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager  
faces turning:

Here Captain! dear father!

This arm beneath your head!

It is some dream that on the deck  
You've fallen cold and dead.

My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and  
still,

My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse  
nor will,

The ship is anchored safe and sound, its voyage  
closed and done,

From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with  
object won;

Exult O shores, and ring O bells!

But I with mournful tread,

Walk the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

WALT WHITMAN.

L ORD AND FATHER, we thank Thee for the precious soul of that great American, Abraham Lincoln, whose spirit lives on, even though his body rests beneath the soil. May it be Thy divine will that the inspiration of his life will sink deep into the hearts of Thy sons and daughters who gather here this day to labor for the development of our great State. Help each and every one to labor in his spirit for the better world that is to be. Those we love never die, and we beseech Thee to continue the noble ambitions of Lincoln's life through these legislators working for the common cause of our beloved State. Sanctify his memory to us, O God, now and forever. Amen.

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(April fifteenth.)

ASSEMBLYMAN T. M. WRIGHT.

WE THANK THEE, our Father in Heaven, that we have been permitted to see the light of another day, and to enter again upon the duties which are

before us as members of this Assembly. Guide us, we pray Thee, in all that we do this day. Help us to remember the duty we owe to each other in this Assembly, to remember the responsibility which rests upon us as representatives of our several districts; to remember the responsibility which the State has placed upon us; and above all, the responsibility which we owe unto Thee, our Father. May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be indeed acceptable in Thy sight. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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(April seventeenth.)

Listen, my children, and you shall hear  
Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,  
On the eighteenth of April in seventy-five,  
Hardly a man is now alive  
Who remembers that famous day and year.  
—LONGFELLOW, "Paul Revere's Ride."

**A**LMIGHTY and Heavenly Father, in Thy sight a thousand years are but as yesterday when it is passed, but in

human reckoning a century and a half cover a most momentous chapter in American history. Before these legislators commence the day's work, they pause in memory to recall that historic ride of Paul Revere, one hundred and fifty years ago tomorrow, which fired the imagination of American patriots and started the nation on that daring experiment in a republican form of government. We think now of the thousands and hundreds of thousands who gave their lives that this nation might live, of the patriotic citizens who were not afraid to have a rendezvous with death. Their deeds are so beautifully expressed by Thy son, a member of this august body, who wrote:

Of him who had a rendezvous  
With Death upon some battlefield,  
The flame the Spartan mothers blew  
Was blazed in full upon his shield.

He fought the fight from days of yore,  
Made Fame the only boon to save,  
'Twas what he knew and furthermore  
'Twas what the Spartan mothers gave.

They bore him back from the ensanguined field  
Where Death he met at the rendezvous,



They bore him back upon his shield,  
He had fought the fight for me and you.

—ASSEMBLYMAN FRANK COOMBS.

May these legislators today help  
strengthen our glorious State and beloved  
Nation, which was only made possible by  
those who dared to die for America. Let  
us live worthily in this blessed land. Amen.

\* \* \*

(April twentieth.)

True worth is in being, not seeming;  
In doing each day that goes by  
Some little good, not in dreaming  
Of great things to do by and by.  
For whatever men say in blindness,  
And spite of the fancies of youth,  
There's nothing so kingly as kindness,  
And nothing so royal as truth.

—ALICE CARY, "True Worth."

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, for the  
last week of the legislative session,  
and on the birthday of a gifted American  
poetess, Thy servants gather within these  
walls to labor for the welfare of our  
wonderful State. Strengthen Thou the  
hands of the Speaker, that he continue to

rule with impartial firmness and by just decisions the activities of this body. Be with each and every member, granting all the light of Thy countenance and the tolerance to work with and in close cooperation with all other members for the good of California. May the law of kindness be found on their lips, and the welfare of mankind be the highest criterion in the zeal they display. Keep them in good health and bless their efforts this day, now and forever. Amen.

\* \* \*

(April twenty-first.)

Abou Ben Adhem—may his tribe increase!  
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,  
And saw, within the moonlight in his room,  
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,  
An angel writing in a book of gold.  
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,  
And to the presence in the room he said:  
"What writest thou?" The vision raised his head  
And with a look made of all sweet accord,  
Answered, "The names of those who love the  
Lord."  
"And is mine one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"  
Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,

But cheerily still, and said, "I pray thee then,  
Write me as one that loves his fellow men."  
The angel wrote and vanished. The next night  
It came again with a great awakening light,  
And showed the names whom love of God had  
    blest,  
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

—LEIGH HUNT, "Abou Ben Adhem."

**L**ORD AND FATHER, on this, the birthday of California's great and illustrious son, John Muir, we think of a lover of mankind, whose unselfish devotion to the natural glories of California, enriched our State beyond measure. May a goodly portion of his precious spirit rest upon the members of this Assembly, that they, too, may love their fellowmen in their every act and deed. Mayest Thou direct the labors of this Assembly today, that there result great good and many blessings to the citizens of our beloved State. May peace and good will obtain among all the members. Establish Thou the work of their hands, and bless them now and forever. Amen.

(April twenty-second.)

REV. BERKELEY B. BLAKE.

**O** GOD, before whose face the generations rise and pass away: age after age, the living seek Thee, and find that of Thy faithfulness there is no end. Our fathers in their pilgrimage walked by Thy guidance and rested on Thy compassion; still to their children be Thou the cloud by day, the fire by night. Where but in Thee have we a cover from the storm or shadow from the heat of life? In our manifold temptations, Thou alone knowest and art ever nigh; in sorrow, Thy pity revives the fainting soul; in our prosperity and ease, it is Thy spirit only that can wean us from our pride and keep us low. O Thou sole source of peace and righteousness, take now the veil from every heart, and join us in one communion with Thy prophets and saints who have trusted in Thee, and were not ashamed. Not of our worthiness, but of Thy tender mercy, hear our prayer, Amen.

(April twenty-third.)

This above all: To thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

—SHAKESPEARE, "Hamlet."

**L**ORD AND FATHER, we enter into Thy presence this morning with thanksgiving, offering a fervent prayer that the spirit of William Shakespeare, that great world poet whose birthday we remember today, may guide these legislators in the performance of their duties. May they be true to the inner light of conscience, which, under Thy divine direction, will guide them for the best interests of California. May they truly and worthily represent the finest ideals of those good citizens who have sent them here and delegated authority to them. Help them to be true to the Golden State they love and the flag which shelters and protects us all. Keep them, O God, in the best of health. May peace and good will spread its radiant influence within this Assembly every hour of the passing day. Mayest Thou establish

the work of their hands for good and for blessing. Amen.

\* \* \*

(April twenty-fourth.)

O California, just the old dear sound—  
Again that one word can the whole world bound!  
Thank God for that Sierran world, a king  
Might go his way, long envying.  
Among illimitable peaks high hung  
With forests, dateless, deathless, ever young—  
The child—world bright with faith and hope.

—ANNA CATHERINE MARKHAM, "California."

ALL HEAVENLY FATHER, the end of this legislative gathering draws nigh. Thy servants from the several districts of our matchless State come into this hall for the last time this session. They would render a stewardship of their activities to Thee, praying that Thou wilt graciously watch over their deeds these concluding hours. To the best of their ability they have kept the faith, and watched with singleness of purpose and loyalty to State the process of law making for developing the glories of California. Speak to their

souls, O Father, and tell them that Thou art pleased with their ministry and patriotic consecration to duty. As they separate for their homes and dear ones, mayest Thou bless and protect them; cause Thy countenance to shine over them and be gracious unto them; lift over them all, and every one of their faithful helpers in this loyal service, the light of Thy face, and bless them with peace unending, now and forever. Amen.